

Mr. President,

I join other speakers in extending to you, Mr. President, my congratulations on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. The same sentiments are also extended to your predecessor for the excellent manner in which he guided the work of the Council last month. Let me also associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Malaysia on behalf of NAM.

Mr. President,

Namibia, like other countries, shares the global and legitimate concern about the fear that non-state actors may acquire weapons of mass destruction and related technology. In today's world characterized by international terrorism, it is increasingly obvious that indefinite possession of these weapons is a threat to international peace and security. So long as such weapons exist, others will always aspire to have them. The only effective way to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be produced again.

Mr. President,

The problem is that those States that have such weapons are unwilling to eliminate them. Instead, they are preoccupied with preventing others from acquiring them. At the same time, they continue to modernize their weapons, in the name of national security. If all States Parties had faithfully implemented their commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the world would have been rid of most dangerous weapons and technology that exist. The security that all of us are entitled to can only be achieved by meeting our commitments assumed under these multilateral treaties and related agreements.

Mr. President,

The non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a universal concern, requiring engagement of the whole membership of the United Nations. In the current international law regime, which recognizes the sovereignty of States, any measure that seeks to impose obligations over and above existing treaties and conventions, the affected States should take part in the negotiation of such measures. That is why my delegation believes that the issue we are discussing here today belongs in the General Assembly, whose membership will be required by the terms of this draft resolution to at least align their national laws with it, if these measures are to be implemented effectively.

Mr. President,

Namibia recognizes that there are gaps in the existing multilateral legal instruments, which needs to be filled. However, such gaps can be filled by multilaterally negotiated instruments and not by Council measures, which are unbalanced and selective, as they represent only the views of those who drafted them.

We hope that the measures envisaged in the draft will be temporary, to be replaced by a legal negotiated instrument.

I thank you, Mr. President.